

Thanks for opening the book

WRITING ABOUT YOURSELF

I like when people write about themselves
and they aren't good at it

people don't know how to best edit
themselves, so it's good

these books are also rare, because they
aren't "good" so they are not published

this book is under that category

These books make me feel embarrassed

What they are trying to say
They are something else a lot better

Compared to people who know how to
write about themselves

then it's just good writers
writing about themselves

sometimes it can be great
good writer

but the usual happens
they struggle and overcome

they manipulate you

like they want to manipulate you

I like writing where they are not aware
of what they are doing

I tried to do this

but I don't want to embarrass myself

so I don't know if I did it well

It's my hope that you would just enjoy what
I wrote

But if I read this I would look for what I'm
trying not to say

I hope you can find it

FAMILY

Sat on the beach with my brother
Then we went to another beach
And I forget what we talked about
Then we came home and talked about food
We argued about the food

STEALING HOME

I was in 7th grade
I was on third base
We were facing a good pitcher
we hadn't gotten anybody to third base

The coach of the team
Informed me that I would be performing a
"trick play"
This was uttered under his breath
to avoid the third baseman hearing it

This was considered something that had to
be done

He wanted me to run down the baseline
farther than I should apparently
this would alarm the catcher

He would then
yell, "come back to third,"
In hopes that the catcher would then throw
to third

All the while, knowing the plan
I would then cheat and in fact run home

I did not like this plan
It scared me
I didn't not understand it

and did not like the idea of “acting”

I do remember thinking,
“This might turn out to be one of the more
embarrassing sports moments of my life”

I think the player up at bat struck out
I never got the chance to do it

FLUTE LESSON

The phrase “Flute lessons” is a good one

I took flute lessons
I was 16 years old

I like that I was open to that experience
taking flute lessons

I always wanted to instantly learn music

The body language of a flute player is funny
to me

The word flute is funny to me

Elves play the flute or happy young boys
near big mountains

It's good music to skip to

Writing a pop song that stands for the end
of time

would be a nice contribution to earth

If you made the song Whiter Shade of Pale

it would be comforting to know you made it

I don't know how I went about getting or
wanting to take flute lessons

I can probably go years without thinking
about that experience

But I did

A person spent time teaching me the flute
In this life

I took piano lesson and drum lessons

I was bad, not fun

The whole thing felt like doing math
problems with my hands

very different from Def Leopard videos

The drum teacher said

“Some people just can’t do it, it just doesn’t come naturally.”

My family had a piano in the house

I forget about that

I bet I walked by it thousands of times to watch TV

I would like to see a picture of it in the house

No one played
it was taken out of the house

I wish I had a gif of me playing the flute
while the teacher watched me in a church

WORK

A kid I work with had the police called after
he called 911 and said he was getting killed
They came and talked to him

He might have to go into the hospital

He was playing pretend 4 square that same day

He threw a bunch of Fruity Pebbles on the floor

I don't exactly know why we call the police the police come and basically remind the kids that they are kids

A student called the police "A faggot"

The police officer smiled and said

"I don't think you can spell that."

I visited this kid years later and we watched the 2021 Ghostbusters movie

We were the only ones in the theater and we ran around it

His grandmother is getting him some kind of video game van for his birthday

GETTING HIGH

I ate some edibles in early COVID times

I hoped to have a good time
not a slow-motion panic attack

There is something about legal edibles
That makes me feel like I can have a
different experience, than ones I had in high
school

I always think of getting high in high school
As exhaling microchip brown weed
That smells like burnt manic organic piss
plastic

The smell of the weed I smoked in high
school makes me anxious

The smell is rare these days

That kind of weed doesn't exist anymore
biker, study hall Maine weed
all brown with 90 degree angles

I took too much of the edible as I always do

I thought trees had evil faces on them

I thought I was a demon, and everyone
knew it and had always known it

And today was the day it would be revealed

Everyone who saw me smiled thinking:
“I know you’re a demon, this is a universe
which was created around the fact that you
are a demon, it’s all we know, I do nothing
but go home and study and think about how
you are a demon, I don’t enjoy food or life, I
only exist for this day, when it is finally
revealed that you are a demon.”

I could do nothing but lay in bed and hope
to sleep

Kind of fun though
Or at least not boring

OLD HIGH SCHOOL FRIEND

Saw an old friend in the Y pool, which felt a
little silly to begin with

bad Billy Joel album

he’s a good friend

the kind of friend that I often seemed to be
in the same room with socially in high
school

But never made plans to be

My friend was his friend or vice versa

We partied together

Now I see him at weddings, birthday parties
and funerals

We talked about how our bodies are falling
apart

Often in my mid to late 30's my friends and
I would have this conversation
"We are getting old."

It didn't seem honest
It was an introduction to the idea of getting
old

He looked old

I'm sure I look old

He told he swims now because he was
drunk and went to smash a can on the
ground

But missed the ground and now can't really
run

In high school, I bled with urine in my pants
and vomited at different occasions in his car

He used to write poetry that was Oasis
influenced

He would frame them and put them on his
bedside table

We didn't make any plans to hang out

I would like to find his Oasis poetry

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

When I was in middle school
I thought the teachers thought our school
dances were cool

they didn't

Looking back, I would think they were
hilarious
or at least entertaining

My teachers did not

All my teachers seemed very tired and old

Like a teacher in a Slim Jim commercial
Or a Motley Cru music video

No dry humping in my school dances
No one even made eye contact
this was the early 90's

Hip hop was still just a good idea

dancing was bad

Now dancing is cool

I used a stink bomb at a middle school
dance once

I got it from a tourist place in North Carolina
Wal Drug I think

my family would drive there or Florida for
family vacations

on a long car drive

I choked my sister with a sock once

I was in 8th grade and over the dance but
still at it of course

It was a pro stink bomb, a glass capsule
holding two different liquids apart

It was effective

I put it in the middle of the dance floor and
someone stepped on it

Cleared the whole gym

I think I still have the ticket to that dance

PORTLAND MAINE CORNER STORES

I went to a convenience store upstate
a far more rural place than Portland

they had a café there, very Maine

I used to go to the local hospital café with
my dad
before covid

I lived with a flat earther
he left
then a guy who thought the government
was going to take over in COVID

he left also

The second guy would walk to work down a path with a wooden walking stick and greet the sunrise by opening his arms

None of the corner stores in Portland have much to them these days, you buy things now

In the past you could have made a sitcom

South Boston meets a carpeted living room

They were scary and exciting

now they are rich and depressing

the employees look young and healthy and are nice in a way that makes me appreciate the effort, but end the conversation

FIRST KISS

I just turned 18

I went to a keg party at the train tracks

I drank till I passed out on them

I asked a girl, who I didn't know well, if I
could kiss her

Which we did outside a fastfood restaurant
She walked me home

We dated for six years

Actually, just realized it's not my first kiss

My first kiss was in 6th grade

After a middle school dance

I walked her home
she stared at me

I stared past her

I assume we talked

I kissed her on the cheek

I walked home and thought,

"That was my first kiss on earth."

REEBOK SHOES

Dee Brown did a lot for Reebok

The pump did a lot for Reebok

Reebok stopped between irony, nostalgia
Russian crypto currency and middle school
glares

Adults have had to meet in a room and talk
about what Reebok “means” and what they
want it to mean

I remember there was a time when Reebok
was challenging Nike

They had Larry Johnson as a Grandma Ma,
they had D Brown and Andre Agassi

Doing colors that Nike would not touch

I was in Middle school when all this was
happening

Larry Johnson dressed as a grandmother
and Dee Brown pumping up his shoes was
the highest of arts

Reebok always felt like a funky Canadian
company

Nike feels like the most fully formed idea of
any idea on Earth

Apple is up there, but Apple's idea isn't as
pure

It's of the mind
Nike is the body
Apple is on the internet
Nike is in the gym

Nike can still float within the cartoon world
of sports and its morals

more fantasy

Before social media Nike was the
conceptual identity of athletes

Bo Jackson was my favorite

I had his poster
My favorite team was the Royals and the
Raiders

I have always liked athletes that transcend
boundaries and go into imagination

I had the poster where Bo is wearing shoulder pads and a baseball over his shoulder

I cried when Walter Payton played his last game

I put all my stuffed animals on the couch and watched the Super Bowl

The Bears vs The Patriots

What an amazing age to be alive to have everything be black and white

Good guys/bad guys

There was a house for adults with metal challenges across the street

One guy wore a Baloo (from Jungle book) mask all the time, another guy hit a tennis ball with a stick in a parking lot.

I saw the guy who used to hit a tennis ball with a stick collecting cans a few years ago

Walter Payton was on whippets almost his whole playing career

Reebok never made a nostalgic come back

Drake prays to be Nike

BEING YOUNG

I saw a moose as a kid

moose are a big symbol in Maine
lobster holding a moose
is pretty much what we got up here

people buy it

I have seen videos of moose with so many
ticks on their bodies that they look like
mutants

I was on an elementary school field trip
We went up north in Maine

We went on a walk and came upon the
moose
I don't know how long we stayed and looked
at it
The man who pointed it out was excited
I wanted to act excited, but I didn't really
care
The moose didn't do much

This man probably had 30 more years of his
life
I had 70

I have seen a moose since in an animal
refuge park, it wasn't a depressing park, no
bright lights
it looked like you think it would

It was after the show Tiger King

and there was a lot of press and reviews of
parks like these
this park got in the news somehow
I don't know how, I think basically because
it was bad

They had a giraffe
that just went in circles

2PAC MURDER

Woke up at 3 AM and listened to Vlad Tv
They interviewed a guy named Mob James
Who was doing security for Death Row
Records

The talked at length about 2Pac's death

Turned out everyone knew it was this guy
Orlando Anderson, who killed him

So, there you go, you heard it here first,
YouTube it

TENNIS FASHION

Watched four old women playing tennis
Seemed fun

big faces

I remember when I was in my late 20's I
would look at the fashion of older people
around their 40's and think
"Not for me"

they looked like uninspired robots

Now I'm 40 and I dress like my body hurts.
Which it does and I'm confused on how to
communicate anything through clothing
besides, "I'm wearing clothes"
but I've still got a little flare, not out of the
game completely

I look at 60-year- old's who look like human clones fashion- wise

Just fully functional clothing that couldn't be any more conservative
Yuppie senior's

I'm sure I will get there

DAN DOBLER

I have friend who should be on a respirator
He has smoked for so long

But he keeps smoking
He calls every day
He says he's going to quit

It's like watching someone

Trying to save their own life everyday

It's heroic
and the soundtrack is a Law and Order type show
he always watches in the background

GYM CLASS

When I was a kid it was still cold war gym
teacher's
score was kept

Now I assume it's woke spiritual guides
Teaching the acceptance of being alive

In my gym class there were numbers going
up the side of the basketball court

you were assigned a number and you had to
stand on it for attendance
you had to cover the entire number with
both feet

if you didn't cover it completely the gym
teacher would get mad

kids would purposely not cover the entire
thing and comedic debates would rage

the gym teacher couldn't have been better
at being that gym teacher

he was also kind person

more fully clothed sweat pants than army

If I see him now, I still say “Humm Baby” a
quote he would always say

he doesn’t know who I am, but he tips his
hat

we were playing flag football
and kids were going out for passes

I was on the sidelines and I stepped onto
the field
wide open

The moment he passed it to me
I felt great in my body

it felt like I found more space in the world

felt like making art

now I’m writing about it

LEXAPRO

I walked on a track to get 20,000 steps

I tried to average 20,000 steps a day
I was Zooming from home so I could walk on
breaks in the woods

If I was far away from 20,000 steps
I would go to the local high school track

The whole thing had a deep going through
divorce vibe

The track is sponsored by a woman who
won the first women's marathon in the
Olympics

In 1984, you would think the idea of women
running a long distance wouldn't have it
first start in 1984

She's from Maine and pops up looking sane
and healthy through the years

I called friends so I wasn't walking around a
track looking at a number on my phone
which counts steps

One friend is wearing a mask now at a
construction site because his wife
Is visiting her sick mom

Another was prescribed Lexapro and fell off
the wagon

The stars were shining bright

And I couldn't think of anything to think
about concerning them, besides what
everyone knows about stars

Which probably isn't that much

RENTING VHS VIDEOS

We used to go to Home Vision Video when I
was a kid
and rent movies as a family

we would get pizza
And eat pop corn

And all sit on the couch together

It was pretty easy

MCDONALDS

Went to McDonalds
And the women working there said
"People think I'm living here because I am
here so much"

Another person had a tattoo I couldn't see
two guys were saying something

I couldn't hear it
because I had my headphones on

I used to go to McDonalds at 6 AM
to get coffee

The guy there began to know what I wanted
and I wouldn't have to order
we both took pride in that

We would make small talk

He once said, "I haven't seen you in a bit"

They have good coffee at McDonalds
and it's 99 cents

I had birthdays at McDonalds as a kid

I remember playing the Monopoly game as
a kid there

I told a kid I had Boardwalk
he had Park Place which everyone got

His family said they would split the earnings
with us

They even said that to my parents
the whole thing was embarrassing

There used to be a deal there two big macs
for \$4

There used to be a McDonalds that had a
laser like thing in it, in some kind of weird
tube in Olympia

But then they changed it and it looks like
every corporate restaurant, which is a soft
hued Arizona coffee shop board meeting
room in a hotel lobby

No more blood, no more clowns

SUNSET

My brother came by
We watched the ocean and a sunset
We ate sugar
He wished he liked Game of Thrones, he
does not
Me, my father, and brother ate a lot of
bread together
My dad said that many people posted about
the sunset, they said "It was an incredible
one."

WORK

A kid tried to defecate outside of the school
I work at
There was a cookout
Diet Pepsi, Moxie, and Diet Ginger Ale were
served
Along with carrots and apples
People played kickball

STEALING

I went to get my car registered at city hall
The line felt like what it was

I couldn't do it
I went down to the cafeteria in city hall, no
one was there
I thought about stealing a yogurt

I haven't stolen anything since I was 15 and
would steal food from the school cafeteria

they put a red light on city hall sometimes
it's not hard to think it looks demonic

No one was in this cafeteria
I think they forgot to lock the door
I didn't do it

Maybe because of the idea of good and bad
or hell

I think I'm mostly scared of being caught
And looking like a drug addict stealing
yogurt

WATCHING BASEBALL WITH MY DADS FRIENDS

Went to a minor league baseball game
With my dad's friends

We have three minor league professional
teams in Portland Maine

All the logos of the teams
are cute animals, intended to be friendly to
children

The echo's of the pro team they are part of
exists
But it's mostly a small town fair vibe

A well respected professional player was
called down from the Red Sox's because of
injury and he played that night

That's why we were there

I came late, I was told my dad and his friends gave the pro a standing ovation

I had long underwear on
My dad's friend talked about catching for a guy named Dickey Vaughn

The fastest pitcher he ever caught for, mid 80's

There had a game on the field between innings where kids tried to catch freezers in pizza boxes

BRIGHT, YOUNG, AND UPWARDLY MOBILE

When I was thirty years old
I worked for the state of Washington in Olympia on the state campus

Running hundreds of paper folders to people in the state house. A job that seemed even laughably outdated even at the time

I had to dress nicely, I was younger and more handsome

I represented something on the campus,
which was something I wasn't off it

I looked very sane

I got the impression some women looked at
me and visualized what my life was, these
kinds of women, never had in the past nor
would they in the future
They were misinformed

It was a comfortable, nice feeling
I was able to live within that idea for two
months
Maybe we would have kids and row a kayak
Be economically secure and vote liberal

I think I could have been happy doing it

FIRST MEMORY

I talked to my dad about dogs
He lives alone and thought about getting
one

When our family dog was alive he would
walk it

He said, "That dog just kept me alive,
walking it."

I didn't pay attention to the dog
I wish I had

He said it broke his heart when it died

I didn't believe him

He then said he used to carry the dog up
and down the stairs

I didn't know that
don't know if I believe that

I had a dream that I held the dog and cried
in absolute sorrow once

I didn't spend much time with it when it was
alive
I ignored it, which I feel bad about to this
day

I do think dogs want peace

I had a small dog named Jack that I loved

That barked at everyone and bit people
Jack had to go to an animal refuge farm

Besides that, I have never connected much
to dogs or animals

It makes me sad when people get dogs
I think they are lonely

But maybe they are just wise and honest

My family had two cats
One cat terrorized the other cat
I remember not seeing the other cat for a
long time
And I was in the basement and it was there
and looked bad

My neighbor threw a cat out of a two story
window
because it pissed on their bed

That person was going through a divorce

I would like to see all the times my dad has
cried alone

I remember this one time a man called
trying to sell my dad some kitchen stuff
This was in land line times when people
could do that

My mom answered the phone and my dad could hear the man trying sell her an appliance

For example, a blender
He would then say "Honey, the blender is really not working well,"
My mom then would have to tell they guy that wasn't true
And so on and on
For whatever reason my Mom found it hysterically funny
She laughed and laughed uncontrollably
I had never seen her laugh like that
I wonder what her life was like at that time
I was a kid, I had no idea
she was just and only a mom

It's one of my favorite memories of my life
my dad telling those jokes and my mom laughing

The first memory I have is of my mom wiping my bottom

CENTRAL PARK

I was in Central Park and went to the "dance" party

There is a dance party there every weekend
at the same place

People were dancing on roller skates

There was a DJ

People looked tired and happy at the same
time

They looked crazy and sane at the same
time also

one step above happy meth

It reminded me of the times I was on acid

Each second oscillated between the idea of
beauty and repulsion

The first time I did acid was at a sleepover,
if such a thing can be called that at fifteen
years old

None of the other people were on anything.
They were playing video games.

I thought the rug patterns had turned into
the Notre Dame leprechaun

A friend held my hand through the night

The Central Park dance party felt like the
end of the world

Lots of pain and within that pain lots of truth
and joy

It was so beautiful that it had to be hideous

I danced, it was fun

ROCK AND ROLL

I remember my first punk house show

I was scared

I was probably 25

which is old for that experience

I thought I was going to get kicked out of
the show

I stood against the wall the entire time and
watched

The band rocked

And the crowd was respecting the rock

It truly felt dangerous

I wish someone had whispered

“You don’t understand what’s happening
here, you’ve got to leave.”

Because I would have

And I wish then I would not have tried again
And that was my rock and roll American
experience

Instead my rock and roll experience has
been America
Which is different, but hasn't disappointed
either

SCHOOL

I'm Zooming with kids at a school
We basically don't talk at this point

I was in special Ed in middle school
I was in a French class

I didn't answer a question or fake anything
I just did nothing
they didn't know what to do with me

I could read well and that was the class you
took if you didn't do a foreign language

Learning to read better

So, I played basketball for a bit
But one day there weren't any basketballs,
so I threw a volleyball against the wall
For 40 min
Then they put me in the reading class

All the girls in there were from the projects
they would talk to me about their dramatic
love lives

I posed no threat

It was my favorite class ever

COLLEGE MASCOT

I bet a lot of people who dressed up
as college mascots

Have thought

- I could do this forever

- I just have to celebrate the team everyone
here is celebrating

- I am a predestined character

- It will end

- No one sees my face

- My body is strong

- I just have to honor what is happening with
everything I got

- People want me to be here

I kind of think it would be a beautiful
experience

How many college mascot's

Have had religious experiences?

I went to a college that had no football team
And the mascot was a geoduck, which isn't
a duck more like a kind of a slug
It was one of the more postmodern mascots
I have seen
But they still got funky at the basketball half
people smiled

It was at an incredibly liberal college
most fans didn't stand for the national
anthem

They had a riot at the school when Dead
Prez played.
students turned over cop cars

Eminem kneeled for Kaepernick

What is comedy what is not?

It can be a scary place though
The "I'm a mascot, let's have fun," vibe can
go wrong
My body reacts the same way I react to a
snake

“I forgot you were on this planet you scare me.”

I can get used to college mascots
Not snakes
Remember that snake from the
Disney movie The Jungle book?

That was a good snake
SMOKING WEED AT SCHOOL

Smoked weed at a new high school
with people I didn't know

The person said,
“Just to tell you that was laced with special
K”

“Ok,” I said
It seemed to make sense at the time
Most everything makes sense at the time

I left school for the day
felt as advertised

BOSTON

I lived in Boston when I was 21 to 24
Boston seems generally not liked by anyone
these days

Boston feels a rich, racist Connecticut now

I was living in a punk house
in Jamaica Plain, at time when that was
possible

there was 30 year old drug addict who was
very chill and normal. It was probably the
most depressing thing in the house

One of my roommates put out a flag that
only had the color black on it.

A person knocked on our door
They said "What's going on with the black
flag?"

"What do you mean?"

"The black flag, what does it mean?"

An honest answer would be "We think it's
cool for lack of many other words, that we
can't conceptualize at this point."

I mumbled something about how they would
have to talk to my roommate who put it up

They asked "Are you an anarchist?"

I knew that we were not, that my roommate
was the essence of one or wanted to be, the
answer was that basically we were young
and as young people we felt we could put

up a black flag that was saying, "We are young and that is a black flag and we can get away with it,"

This stranger, who was our age, wanted it to mean something else.

WATCHING ADULTS HAVE SEX

I watched people have sex
In Spain at some sex place
When I was 18
It was on the main strip, probably the
version of Times Square long ago
The window would go up then come back
down again

They looked like they were on a stage
And it felt like they were on a stage

I felt nothing
Besides the idea of "This is happening"

I don't think many people felt much besides
this is strange and kind of shitty

When you're 18 there are a lot of moments
Where you think "This is happening"

When you're alive there are a lot of
moments
Where you think, "This is happening."

It's why drugs exist, it's why religion exists
It's why everything exists

Besides nature

They didn't seem to be having much fun
The people having sex on a rotating bed
While people watched

I'm amazed people have a good enough
imagination to make strip clubs arousing

MOM'S GRAVE

Went to my mom's grave for the first time

I didn't feel much while visiting
Which felt good
I thought at one point over the last 10 years
I cry
Or be angry
but I didn't feel any of that
I think if I was on ecstasy and sleep
deprived

I don't think I could even fake an emotion
looking at it

A friend told me that they have these
caskets now
That will last for 500 years
So that your body just will lay in there for
that amount of time
Which I found humorous
People's bodies frozen in time and space

Sounds like a curse or the greatest
punchline ever

The grave was just that, a stone with a
name
That she wasn't born with

someone with the headstone that was close
to my mom's grave had a large exact image
of Yoda, that felt good

and more like my mom than her headstone

INTERNET

When I was young
the internet
Felt like it was only for rich people

Like a latte in the 80's
That the internet was a well-financed info
commercial product
I was wrong

Everybody in the world should write a
metaphor
For the internet as prayer
And take the best one

And either shoot it into space, bury it
somewhere special, or have the oldest
person in the world eat it

Weave it into a blanket for each newborn
child, tattoo it on a whale, have animatronic
elves positioned randomly on earth speak it,
have it be spoken over a loud speaker

I'm 40, I don't really like the internet

I have many memories
Where no one is holding a cell phone
Just silence and fear which is more beautiful
than the internet thing

RACISM

My dad didn't understand nor believe in
institutional racism

Then after the protests
he did
75 years later

So, there you go

SWIMMING

When swimming
I often laugh while underwater
I am laughing intuitively
It's a freeing and embarrassing laugh

I'm laughing at the way I move my body
When I swim and do most strokes besides
the basic over hand stuff
My body mimics strange physical
movements in life underwater
It feels like the combination of primitive
dancing while having a heart attack

It would make sense that in the place where
we came from before life
We can return, submerge in water, and
laugh about everything outside of it

KIDS

Kids are singing karaoke
To a disco light
The song is modern country
They are singing behind the actual song
There are 3 bean bags in the room
All the kids are homeless

GREYHOUND STATION

I went into a Greyhound station
No one was there
I said "Hello," loudly
then louder
I thought to myself how happy I was to be
alone in a greyhound station
I was alone for about three minutes

I felt sad about how scared I was of thinking
about going behind the counter

The attendant came in the station
I tried to buy a ticket for a two hour ride
The price was \$60
I said "That's a lot"
They said "I'm embarrassed about how
much that is, I will give it to you for \$40"

I asked her what she thought of the town
she lived in and that I had lived in for 12
years

She said the homeless were gross animals
and shat on the ground

She went on like this for about 20 seconds
I said nothing

she processed the ticket and continued to
talk about them shitting on the ground

The best I could say was "Maybe it's out of
desperation?"

"Fuck that"

I got a Greyhound ticket for a two-hour ride

BEING 40

I was waiting for a coffee in Dunkin Donuts
A young woman came in and was dancing
and singing to the radio

I thought it was wonderful

I looked at her and attempted to give some
signal that I thought so

I only got a millisecond into that

Before I could tell she didn't want me to
and I stopped

MCDONALD'S

I walked to my local McDonalds
The person at the counter did not know me
A man behind her did
The women asked me what I wanted, and
he answered for me.
“A medium with half and half.”
Which is my regular order
I had thought about getting a large
But the rhythm of the whole thing, it was
hard not to give in
It was my bond with this man
I said, “That sounds right.”
“I haven’t seen you in awhile,” he said.
I said “I haven’t woken up early enough”
“Like Adam Sandler in Big Daddy”
I was confused
“It’s an Adam Sandler movie, if you’re into
that type of thing.”
I said, “I like the guy.”
Then another McDonald’s employee said,
“That’s the only movie my x-boyfriend ever
cried at.”
Then they debated when the movie came
out

COMEDY

I once did a stand-up thing at an open mic

It was a local radio station tournament thing, which is brutal

It was the kind of comedy club that is a comedy club, which describes the comedy

I wish I had it on video

It was 2002 probably before the big comedy wave started or peaked

I told a joke about someone's vagina and called it a "pussy"

That's how bad it was

Something about Martha Stewart pussy

I guess I felt the need to be edgy

That is a joke I would never tell, in "real life"

So, I don't know why I felt the need to memorize it

And say it in front of strangers in a humor competition.

There was silence after the joke
And I said, "That's a joke"

Which I think got the only laugh

10 years later

I then did a comedy character called The
Masturbating Comedian

I then did a comedian that is called The
Crystal Boot comedian which is a comedian
who ends every joke with getting hit in the
penis

That's my formal stand-up comedian career

It's about as logical as I thought it would be

I like Richard Pryor
I like Neil Hamburger

I like watching my Dad in silence

ISLAND

I live on an island in the winter

it's cold

I don't really know anybody

I thought I would get to know people

my because of COVID it's harder

seems hard anyway

"You over there, I'm here, want to talk?"

The island is beautiful

I would sometimes go to it as a teenager
and party

I didn't really like nature as a kid

I thought it was dumb

now I like it

it doesn't ask for much

it's too expensive to buy a house on the
island

I tried, I went to look at a house

and the person knew I could not buy it and I
knew I could not buy it

there was a lot of silence

A friend of mine somehow got a free condo building in a bad town that turned nice

he was going to sell it and buy a house on the island with me. We could have done that.

But he died. He would have done well on the island, lots of old people, he did well with old people, because he couldn't be cool if he wanted to

People die

I met his mom on the bench we dedicated to him in a park

it was odd

CREATIVE WRITING CLASS

I was in a creative writing class

and there was an intern of some sort there

she liked my writing, or liked the idea of liking my writing and asked me to meet after school

my writing at that time was pretty wild

just stream of consciousness meta
metaphors

there were probably some moments

but it seems like comedy slam poetry at this
point

or maybe it's the greatest thing I have ever
done I don't know

it was just tangent into tangent and so on

it was kind of her to meet me after school

we met twice

looking back she gave me a book and a Yo
La Tango album which I wasn't into

If I ever published anything I would thank
her

She got me a job at a highend restaurant as
a busser

the person she knew at the restaurant

I gave the movies I made to him
they were both not what they looking for

I think she later became a social worker in
Iraq

YMCA CAMP

I think I went from 12 to 15

they had archery

A European person called me “Stupid” while
I tried to do something with the bow

They did the whole flag and trumpet thing

felt very 80's

November Rain was a big deal

We played capture the flag, everyone loved
it. There was a gleeful energy when we
played, people giggling the entire time.

A camp counselor made us listen to Bridge
Over Troubled Water and then talk about it
afterwards, it was uncomfortable

I put up a Simon and Garfunkel LP on my wall in high school

I went to Japan as a sister city program

The mother of the house I was staying at, made me a mix tape. It had Sound of Silence on it and It's a Wonderful World. I was in 7th grade and it was the most important music I had listened to at the time.

I once gave a mix tape with Rocky Raccoon, Wonderwall and No Women No Cry to a friend who had never heard any of them.

I lied and said I was from Chicago at the YMCA Camp, I got caught, but no one talked to me about it, embarrassing to this day

I used to go to Uno's Pizzeria Chicago deep dish in Portland Maine because we thought it was where the 9/11 terrorist ate there. They spent their last night in Portland, Maine. Turns out they just used the ATM. I went there with a friend on 9/11 once and told the waiter, they did not care.

CRACK

Smoking crack was a big thing in the 80's and early 90's or the concept of it was

“What are you a crack head?”

Dennis Leary doing MTV leather jacket bad boy anti-crack rants

the crack epidemic

I was in an apartment with a friend who smoked crack

that was that

I have never been asked

seemed hard to get

I heard kids in rich liberal schools smoked crack

heard that the friend from the apartment who first smoked crack, smoked crack two weeks ago

APPLE 2 C

I had an Apple computer when I was young
where did Apple go for 15 years?

It would be like if Nike left

I played with a joy stick

played:

King's Quest

Load Runner

I played Where in the World is Carmen
Sandiego

and some game where you had to catch a
ball in a basket as a bear

King's Quest was cool, you're a prince and
you go around and not much happens, there
were rumors of a witch

But I mostly played Hardball which was a
baseball game

me and my friend Cam played, we had
statistics

We had lists on roll paper of different
statical categories: homeruns, hits, doubles,

I don't think the game could comprehend
triples

those lists would be masterpieces to me
now

I remember in computer class in middle
school there was an unhealthy neon green
triangle and you could move it around.
we did learn to type which I enjoyed

the teacher was nuts and not afraid to yell
at kids

I didn't know that adults or humans could
be unhappy at that time, just bad guys

you could have a teacher at that time who
just mean to be mean. Now they have to at
least hide it

The teacher was the soccer coach

I don't think we lost a game in the three
years I was there

He would role a ball to us and we would
simply kick it as far as we could

I watched a kid climb on a bridge over a street to get to practice

you had to walk on train tracks

where there were burned couches and paper mache porn caves

Oregon Trail was a hit back then

Sim City

and a football game where you just choose the play and the ball moved or not, which is the Zen version of sports games.

BERMUDA

My grandfather was rich and he inherited a house in Bermuda
there is a picture of him as a kid with a KKK rally on the back of the picture frame

He drank in the morning and was very proper

Old WASP style that couldn't even begin to exist now

he had a dry sense of humor

he seemed happy, I wonder if he was?

One time my older cousin turned up the radio while he was out of the car, so when it turned on it would be loud

He was upset by this

I went to Bermuda as a kid

I was probably no older than 7

I would watch chameleons

There is a picture of all the kids with white blond hair sitting in the sun

all the houses were painted white

I would race cars down the roof, which you could climb on

while there, my dad told us about the movie La Bamba in a dramatic fashion and I cried

that "Richie!" part is no joke

all those movies you see as a kid, the first time you see people react to death to love. Its the most beautiful art you can experience

I remember seeing the black people that lived there, I had no idea what the world was like but knew they would not becoming to the house

There were scooters, the story goes that I almost fell asleep while on one

Would have been an interesting way to die being 7 and looking at a tree in Bermuda

DRINKING

Twice, people have come into my room, once in college and once at a fishing cannery dorm, and peed in the corner

One of the guys was a veteran and when drunk would go off on a slight PTSD rant about war

I don't like drinking because I'm bad at it

I did like having to wake up in the middle of the night to pee for what seemed like hours, that felt good

In high school I drank fast

I figured the point was to get drunk, so drink. Similar to food, I eat fast, the point is to have the food in your mouth

the more drunk you got the funnier it was, or supposed to be

something had to happen

when people were getting buzzed I would already be moving my words poorly

I once got thrown out of a wedding for being too drunk

I got pushed by someone, sat down and cried at the wedding and kind of just sat there the entire rest of the wedding

There are pictures of that wedding where I am wrestling people on the ground and you can see the outer layers of people confused and worried

I think I only got naked twice and streaked
When I used to drink

One time on a college campus in Virginia
Where I got slightly punched
And the other time right outside a party

I figure I would have done it more

Drunk but still peaking, beyond language
and after headbutting the ground
But still with the will to be alive and
communicate

Getting naked and running seems honest
and respectful
these things happened when I drank too
fast-

(If I didn't drink fast, all that beer did was
make me sad and tired)

- Sing loudly or rap
- try to lift something heavy
- take my shirt off
- announce that I was going to try some
physical feat or task that would allow many
people to look at me
- basically drunk performance art

I got drunk with some friends in the winter
in Maine

there was a layer of frozen ice on lots of
snow

so it was a perfect place to head butt the ice
and say "Ice, ice, ice"

A person who I see once every 8 years still
references it when I see him

we then all went into an entry way

and some friends broke some windows

drinking didn't do much for me and I quit

Everything you would think happened,
happened when I was drinking

not much

laughter, mistakes, "I love you man"

Besides getting branded

The story goes that friends of my friends far
wilder than my friends

drank with a motorcycle gang and they liked
how they drank so the gang branded them
with an A meaning alcohol

anyway that branding spread within a
certain section of a friend group

A friend group that drank a lot

Someone said "You should do it,"

I said an easy "No."

Then I drank the hard stuff and I got
branded
It's still on my body today

ACCIDENT IN CAR

I got in two accidents while living in NYC

One was on the turnpike. I stopped and the
car behind me hit me and then the car
behind them hit me, so the original car then
hit me again

An American blooper

I then swore with great passion

I don't swear often or at least I don't think I do

I have heard my dad swear once. Two days ago me and my dad were walking towards the beach when I saw someone preparing to go into the ocean in November in Maine.

I said, "That's fucking crazy." He corrected me

Lot of kids swear at my work, it sounds ignorant

A person I knew delivered food for Dominoes' he said , "The people I work with our ignorant." I thought that was a good use of language

The person staged dived and hit his head on the concrete floor and got a concussion and had to rest for 6 months

MOM IN MOVIE

I have made many a movie in my day
in that it starts and ends
friends are given lines then try their best to
say them

It's always a comedy for good or for bad

It's raw

My mom was in only one of my movies
before she died

Lords of Justice

She put blood on her face and pretended
she was dying by groaning

I would have loved to make more with her

Lords of Justice was a crime thing, which
was kind of a kids show, but not so good

a friend visited from SF and wanted to make
a kids show

He saw it and said "That's not a kid show."

I tried to call this friend while in Brooklyn.
We traded some texts, he has kids and is
doing animation, we never met up

It was hard to meet friends in Brooklyn, people were tired and trying to live the dream, plus it could be an hour commute

My mom said if she wasn't a social worker she would have been an actor, I like that

WORKING

This kid with autism used to be wild, lots of holds, he would try to hurt people by biting them. A therapist once had to put her finger in his eye so he didn't bite her finger

His teeth would hurt and he would just go crazy biting anything he could get his hands on, primal yells. He would grab people's hair and pull.

He was scary and dangerous

I once walked in and he was pulling someone's hair, many people were involved, I asked "What do you want me to do?" No one said a thing.

He went to the hospital and they gave him lots of meds

they probably thought it's either this or a padded wall for the rest of his life

now he's slow motion mellow

he's still got a smile though

all he does is ask for food

and he gets it at the house he lives at
because he's an independent person now

he's an adult

he will sit for hours and smile and ask for food

he's a wise man

He is even given private time to hump a mattress
while in school

he used to watch twine move around a pencil for hours which was kind of cool

He's independent which means I think he could just pour ranch down his throat all day

He's already obese and I think he going to die on the early side

DANCING

My dad was drinking and started to the Beach Boys

He's still got the moves, smooth with a cartoon joke in there

I remember Down Town Julie Brown

I used to have a crush on Paula Abdul.
Really like the song "Straight Up"

My dad's mom was a ball room dancer

She was also alive when Harriet Tubman was alive

I was born only 8 years after the Beatles broke up

My dad seems free when he's dancing,
everyone seems free

A person can forget to move their body for months or for a lifetime

I forget, then I dance and laugh, it's like smelling a scent you forgot, but was always there

I remember being in bands and thinking, "I should just put this thing down and move," which is what I ended up doing

no boys danced at the middle school dances

it's nice to watch people dance to their own dream

would be nice to watch 10 concrete block fall from a 5 story building

I like watching people's faces when they dance

A big influence on my faces was working with people with autism, they would hold a face for a long time

My grandmother at 93 said, "This is probably going to be the last year I live," she was in good health at the time

I found the bag scene in American Beauty powerful when I watched it

EASTLAND PARK

I was hired as a concierge

My father's uncle worked there as a chef

I wasn't good at the job. I didn't really know
I should have given suggestions of what to
do. I was 20 I don't think I knew what
anyone should do in Portland

The lounge was on the 11th floor and for
people on the 11th and 12th floors.

There were croissants there I ate about 6 a
day before I was told they were big macs

I once ate 20 doughnuts a day

I did that

they were on the smaller side

I was working in a fishing cannery in Alaska
working the night shift

They put the doughnuts in the break room

which you had to go through
to get to the bathroom

they had an endless supply

I would use the bathroom
often through the shift

and eat them then

plus we had breaks and I would eat them